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DUE

Final master plan public workshop toni

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The new Romulus master plan is in the final stages of completion, according to City Planner Cynthia Lyon. But residents still have a chance to voice their opinions on the direction of the city at the final public workshop at 7 p.m. tonight at Romulus City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting is meant to give residents the opportunity to discuss ideas, concerns and expectations regarding community-wide issues before the master plan is finalized later this year.

Lyon said city officials have done their best to improve the current master plan by proposing a number of key changes that will better the community, but they are still open to comments and suggestions from the public.

The city has mapped out a list of overall master plan goals, including the creation of a mix of uses in the city

that supports the economic vitality, tax base and livability of Romulus, to provide a solid residential base and to offer diverse commercial and office services.

The goals also call for the city to maintain strong industrial business development opportunities, to ensure all new uses that reflect consistent quality and character and to incorporate open space into the land use pattern.

Within the new master plan, city officials are also attempting to create an identity for all neighborhoods in the city and to re-create a safe and coordinated transportation system in the city.

There are specific goals for separate sections of the master plan.

In the land use section, the city is looking to retain the elements of the mixed use, urban land use pattern, provide diverse residential options and to create nodes of commercial use to serve neighborhoods.

City officials also want to concentrate regional com-

mercial uses, create new opportuniti

opment and eliminate the sporadic pattern of industrial land uses.

In the southwest area, the city wants to preserve the rural character by protecting natural features, incorporating open space and reducing the allowable residential density.

City officials said they want to further define the downtown portion of Romulus with street trees, buildings and sidewalks, improved parking, and to create a place for people to gather. The plan also calls for the city to promote dining, entertainment and retail uses in the downtown area.

In the Five Points section of the city, the plan calls for the creation of a dramatic entry at the intersection and include street trees, buildings and sidewalks to promote

See Workshop, page 3



Sign of progress

The sign went up this week at the new Family Dollar store located on Wayne Road. The Family Dollar is the first commercial development project to go up on Wayne Road in Romulus in the last 20 years. The store will offer a number of different items to residents and is slated to open later this fall.

Auditions for Romulus American Idol next week

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Move over Kelly Clarkston and Ruben Studdard, Romulus is about to launch its own version of the hit show *American Idol* and show off the talent in Romulus, according to Herb Buckley, director of the Romulus Recreation Department.

"We expect to have a lot of people perform in the competition," said Buckley. "We have some very talented people in this city and this is our chance to show them off."

This is second year the Romulus American Idol competition will bring Romulus residents to the stage.

Last year, those involved in the final competition had more than 2,000 people watch them perform at the annual Pumpkin Festival.

"We all had so much fun during the competition last year,"

said Buckley. "We had a great response from the community and that made it even better."

This year the competition will operate a little differently, said Buckley.

Last year all of the contestants were grouped together, which made it difficult for some of the contestants.

"It is hard when you have an adult singing and then a child singing against each other," he said. "The child is always going to get a better response from the crowd, because they are so cute."

This year, the contestants will be separated into three categories; adults, ages 18 and up, teens, ages 13-17 and juniors, ages 7 to 12.

Auditions for the Romulus American Idol will take place at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2 at the Romulus Recreation Department offices. Three finalists will

See Idol, page 3

Car lovers gear up for annual car show

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Listen up Romulus car enthusiasts. The third annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival Car Show is just three weeks away. So, it is time to shine that 1955 Chevy or take the tarp off that 1965 convertible Mustang and get ready for some fun in the sun.

"People come from all over the area to show off their cars," said Doug O'Leary, owner of Romulus Auto Supply and a member of the car show committee for the Pumpkin Festival. "You have to remember that some of these people have put

more than \$30,000 into their cars, so they are very proud of them."

The car show will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18 on Goddard Road, just across from the Historical Museum. Check-in and registration will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the car show will continue until 5 p.m.

There is a \$5 pre-registration fee for those who wish to register prior to Sept. 18 at Romulus Auto Supply located on Goddard Road in downtown Romulus.

Registration the day of the event will be \$10 with all proceeds going to benefit the Friends of the Romulus Animal Shelter.

"This is the first year we will

be donated the profits to a charity," said O'Leary. "We wanted to choose a needy group in Romulus and the animal shelter kept popping up."

The first 100 cars will receive dash plaques and there will also be door prizes, said O'Leary.

Last year more than 100 cars came down to the car show and O'Leary said the committee is hoping to get more people out to look at the classic cars.

"We really want people to be able to come down and look at these great cars," he said. "We think that because of our location, so close to the Pumpkin Festival activities, this year we will have a better turnout."



Last year, the Pumpkin Festival Car Show featured more than 100 classic cars including Mustangs, Novas, GTXs, Road Runners and Corvettes.

There will be a 50/50 raffle during the car show and 10 cars will be awarded Top 10 dash plaques by the committee. There will also be five people's choice awards given at the event.

O'Leary said he believes that the car show will draw a large audience, because it is reminis-

cent of the past.

"Cars have always been an American obsession," he said. "Ever since the 1950s, people are drawn to classic cars and we may not have a lot, but the ones we do have are top quality."

For more information on the car show call (734) 941-1727.

Former sheriff to face incumbent in Wayne County race

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A familiar face hopes to return to his former position as Wayne County Sheriff.

Bill Lucas, who served as sheriff for 12 years in the 1970s and 80s, will oppose Democratic incumbent Sheriff Warren Evans in November. The 76-year-old was the only Republican candidate in a field of nine contenders and took about 19 percent of the vote in the primary election this month.

"I'm running for this seat because I think something is wrong in the sheriff's department that needs to be fixed," he said. "Officers have told me that morale is at an all-time low, and that they do not receive the equipment and training they need to do their jobs." He added that some officers have complained that crucial court cases have been put into jeopardy because officers have not been trained to testify properly in court.

Lucas said that those issues, along with creating programs to protect children and elderly residents and staying within the departmental budget would be on the top of his to-do list.

"The current department is out of budget alignment, or so I've heard, and that puts law enforcement efforts into jeopardy," he said.

Lucas began his law enforce-

ment career as a vice squad officer with the New York City Police Department in the early 1950s. It was during this time that the future U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy personally recruited him to join the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division as an investigator. A few short years later, Lucas joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent. After a short stint at the FBI Cincinnati Field Office, Lucas was appointed Undersheriff of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. He eventually served three terms as sheriff.

Lucas said he's now facing a situation similar to the one he saw 30 years ago. "Having been in this position before, I don't think things will get and better if there's not change in the department," he said. "We have jail overcrowding; officers who can't relate to citizens through no fault of their own. We need to find some very basic solutions for these problems."

Jail overcrowding in Michigan is currently a topic under debate in the legislature and the Sheriff's Department.

Lucas left the office of sheriff when he was elected, as a Democrat, to be the first Wayne County executive. He changed party affiliations and campaigned against Gov. James Blanchard as the Republican gubernatorial candidate in 1976, but was defeated. After the loss, he returned to the Department of Justice, where he was named director of liaison services. He returned to Detroit a few years later, where he was appointed to the bench of recorder's court and later was elected and served on the Wayne County Circuit Court.

Lucas received his Bachelor of Science degree from Manhattan College and his law degree from Fordham University Law School in New York City. He is a member of the Michigan and New York State Bar and is qualified to practice law before the United States Supreme Court. He and his wife

of 56 years, Evelyn, are the parents of six children. They have 16 grandchildren.

Warren Evans is seeking election to the sheriff's office for the

first time. He was appointed after incumbent Sheriff Robert Ficano was elected Wayne County Executive in 2003. The general election is Nov. 2.

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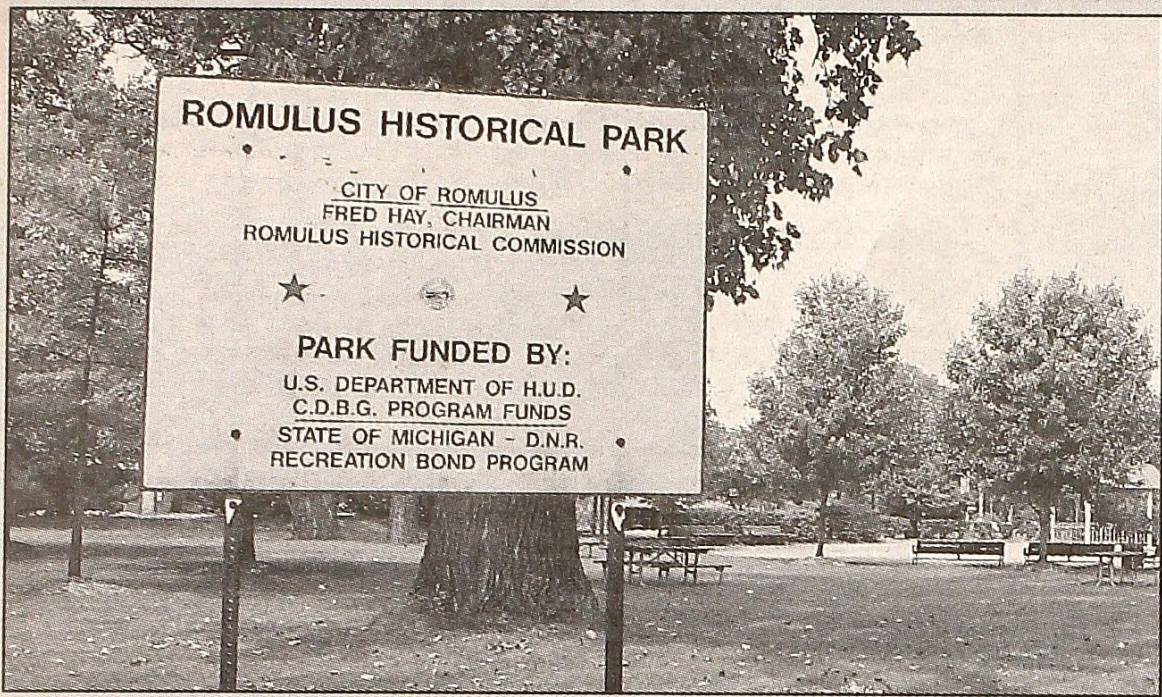
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The proposed expansion of Historic Park will include a new open-air pavilion, as well as new walkways and picnic areas for residents to enjoy.

Historic growth

Grant may fund expansion of downtown park

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Romulus residents may be seeing much more of Historic Park on Hunt Street thanks to a grant application submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, according to Maria Lambert, Romulus downtown development director.

“We are very excited about this project,” said Lambert. “We are looking to expand the current Historic Park from Goddard Road west of Moore Street and south to Bibbins Street.”

The expansion is an effort to make Historic Park a central point for the downtown area, said Tim Keyes, economic-development director.

“We want people to come

downtown and notice Historic Park during events like our annual Pumpkin Festival,” said Keyes. “We want to also expand it to bring new things into the park.”

An objective that was set forth in the Recreation Master Plan is to improve the current landscaping and create walkways and improve parking in the current park and a lot space for a picnic area for residents.

“We need to have a focal structure in the area,” said Keyes. “Something that draws people into the park.”

That focal structure is expected to be a 30 by 80 foot open-air pavilion for residents who wish to picnic or to serve as a central point for events such as parades, festivals, concerts or farmer’s markets.

Keyes said the city would also like to move the historic Wabash Freight Building into Historical Park and restore the building there.

“We really do believe that all of this can be done,” said Keyes. “We believe at the end of it, it will create a consistent flow to the downtown area and it will make it more inviting for residents to spend time downtown, especially during city events.”

If the grant is awarded through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will match funds in the amount of \$125,000 toward the expansion.

Keyes said the entire project should take 12 to 24 months to be completed.

Survey finds parents happy with schools

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Parents of Romulus students have no qualms about sending them back to school in the district, according to a survey completed last spring.

Romulus Community Schools Curriculum Director Tom Dolan said he is pleased with the results of a survey of parents completed earlier this year in the district.

“Our parents hold our schools in high esteem and they gave district schools a high satisfaction rating in many different areas,” said Dolan.

Parents with students currently in the Romulus school system were asked to complete the survey. The questionnaire asked parents a range of questions on topics from the safety of their children at school to the performance and availability of teachers and staff.

According to Dolan, the surveys revealed that 99 percent of parents questioned believed their children’s teachers were available to help students who requested it. At least 97 percent of the parents surveyed indicated teachers care about their students, students receive the appropriate recognition for good work and students are enthusiastic about coming to school.

Parents reported that they

feel their children are safe at school and they feel the discipline program is fair with the principal being accessible to students and parents.

Dolan said parents at Wick Elementary also praised the Compass-Odyssey Online Program that is used to help students master daily lessons during after school sessions.

The program was part of a grant that enabled students to work on lessons in a step-by-step fashion. If a student did not pass the chapter test, they received additional training and tried again. The program was also made available to students at home.

Parents received weekly progress reports and were able to access information about how their child was doing from the Internet.

The survey showed that students throughout the district liked and looked forward to monthly incentive assemblies. In order to attend their programs, excellent attendance was required.

Parents and students additionally agreed that their school building was clean and orderly.

“We have tried very hard to make our schools the best possible and it is rewarding to have our parents and students give us such high ratings on the questionnaires,” said Dolan.

Workshop

FROM PAGE 1

retail, service and office uses, as well as create a place for people to gather.

In the southern gateway, the plan calls for another dramatic entry point into Romulus at the Eureka Road and I-275 interchange. The city also wants to define this area with street trees, buildings and sidewalks and to promote research, office and supportive uses.

The city has also devised a neighborhood plan that earmarks key neighborhood concepts that will be citywide.

These include promoting organization, supporting traditional neighborhood design, protecting the rural, low-density neighborhoods, providing all with parks, schools and pathways and minimizing the impacts of incompatible uses.

Under the transportation plan, the city wants to balance all modes of transportation whether it is the street, air, pathway, transit or rail. The plan also calls for the control of driveway spacing and locations and to consider road improvements or realignments, intersection changes and new technology to improve traffic flow in the city.

An interconnected pathway and sidewalk system may also be developed throughout the city.

Idol

FROM PAGE 1

be chosen from each category and those contestants will move on to the finals at the Pumpkin Festival.

The finalists will then perform at the Pumpkin Festival and one

winner will be chosen from each category. The winners will receive a trophy and a cash prize.

Buckley said there are some guidelines that all entries must adhere to during the auditions. Contestants must bring their own music and they will have 3 minutes to perform before a panel of three judges.

“It is just something different

that people really seem to enjoy,” said Buckley. “We are sure it is going to be a great time again this year.”

Applications for the contest can be obtained during office hours at the Romulus Recreation Department and must be in no later than Wednesday, Sept. 1.

For more information call (734) 942-6852.

Reading program is a hit at library

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The Romulus Public Library summer reading program was a hit this year, according to librarian Gurpreet Samra.

Samra said more than 112 children from Romulus, Huron Township, New Boston and other surrounding areas participated in the program and read for more than 77,000 minutes during the 6-week summer program.

The program, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Romulus Library, Romulus Rotary Club, Romulus Chamber of Commerce and Huron Rotary

Club, is designed to encourage children to read for pleasure and explore all the resources available at the library.

Samra said children and their parents enjoyed weekly entertainment at the library and in the process learned about the Lewis and Clark expedition, bike and helmet safety, reptiles and farm animals.

There were many big readers in Romulus this summer, but none could top Donovan Moomaw of Romulus who read a total of 72 hours and 55 minutes.

During the last of the program, children received certificates, prizes and pizza with drinks donated by the

McDonald’s on Wayne Road. Skateland West and Michigan Friends of Education. McDonald’s also donated some of the prizes the children received.

But, just because the summer is coming to an end, doesn’t mean that reading for pleasure should stop, Samra said. In fact, September is “Get your Library Card” month in Romulus. Library cards entitle members to use the Internet, take out books, magazines, books on tape and CDs, videos, and DVD’s free of charge.

For more information contact the Romulus Public Library at (734) 942-7589.



Sidney Damron, a second grade student at Wick Elementary School took advantage of summer reading at the library. Sidney and her mom read at least one book every night.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 17, 2004

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Herman, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Planning and Zoning Administrator Pugsley, Parks Manager Averill, Lieutenant Brooks, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-three (23).

Supervisor King requested a moment of silence be held in honor of former United States Representative William D. Ford.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment on the special assessment roll for the purpose of installing and maintaining streetlights in the public road-right-of way in the Walden Woods Subdivision Phase 3. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley stated the Board of Trustees adopted Resolution 2004-19 at the July 20, 2004 Board Meeting establishing the Special Assessment District for Walden Woods Subdivision Phase 3. This is the third of five subdivisions in the Walden Woods residential development located north of Tyler Road between Morton-Taylor and Belleville Roads. This is an option available to developments in the township where DTE Energy will install and maintain overhead street lighting and the homeowners are billed annually. The Township uses the special assessment process to provide a method to collect payment for street lighting via the property tax bill. The initial capital outlay paid by the developer is \$14,943.50. The \$3,358.52 annual operating cost is to be spread among the eighty-six lots with an annual cost of \$39.05 per lot, per year. DTE Energy has the right to modify the annual cost periodically due to changes in operating and replacement costs. Director Kelley stated he spoke with DTE Energy in regard to a resident inquiry of how the annual cost is figured and stated it is like an insurance policy to cover numerous items such as replacement cost due to damage of street light poles, basic maintenance and the cost of electricity.

Trustee Jahr clarified the annual bill is added to the homeowner's tax bill.

Trustee Rochowiak stated the resident who made the inquiry attended the August 16, 2004 Work Study Meeting and Director Kelley confirmed he was satisfied with the answer.

There were no comments from the audience.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Jahr moved, Herman seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Payne moved, Herman seconded to open the public hearing to establish a special assessment district for the purpose of developing design and construction plans for improvements to Venetian and DeWitt Streets south of I-94. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley stated this is a request made by the benefited property owners on Venetian and a portion of DeWitt

Streets for the Board of Trustees to accept their petitions to establish a special assessment district for the purpose of preparing engineering drawings and construction documents for the reconstruction of these public roads. Last year the Township's Water and Sewer Department secured a grant to clean and improve the road ditches on these roadways. The township's engineers provided the lowest bid for the engineering and reconstruction of road documents. Director Kelley further stated if the Board of Trustees approves this resolution tonight the next step in the special assessment process is to present a resolution for the special assessment roll for the engineering drawings and construction documents to the Board of Trustees for their approval at a future Board Meeting.

Supervisor King inquired as to what portion of DeWitt Street is to be reconstructed? Director Kelley stated previously Jeanette and a portion of DeWitt Streets were improved when the Belleville Road improvement was done. The remaining portion of DeWitt Street south of Jeanette Street is what is to be reconstructed.

A resident inquired about the engineering plans that were used for the ditches and will the residents know the interest rate before the special assessment roll is done? Director Kelley stated the engineering plans used for the ditches does not include the reconstruction for the roads, they were only for the ditches. He further stated the residents will receive a notice of the special assessment public hearing indicating the cost before the special assessment roll is spread.

Trustee Jahr inquired about the Harmony Lane project? Director Kelley stated upon request of the benefited residents he is waiting for one more bid from an engineer before the project can proceed.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

MINUTES: Rochowiak moved, Budd seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of July 19, 2004 as presented. Carried.

Herman moved, Jahr seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2004 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Lieutenant Brooks presented Terry and Diane Schoenbach with a statue honoring them for their thirty years of service as K-9 dog trainers and Officers for the Public Safety Department.

A letter from a resident thanking Waste Management for providing good weekly refuse pick-up service.

On August 19th the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division will host a Potential Bass Season Changes Public Meeting in the Otisville/Sheldon Room in the township offices at 7:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the second reading for adoption of Ordinance 07-20-04, to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance, 06-02-92, as amended, to establish new regulations pertaining to Planned Senior Development (PSD) as a Special Approval Use in Section 7.04.A. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Jahr, Herman, Rochowiak, Hart, Budd, Payne and King. Nays: None. Absent and excused: None. Carried.

*(A synopsis of Ordinance 07-20-04 follows the minutes. A complete copy may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

NEW BUSINESS: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-21 to establish a special assessment roll for the purpose of installing and maintaining streetlights in the public road right of way in the Walden Woods Subdivision Phase 3. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Herman seconded to approve the January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2005 Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) Contract for Police Officers and Dispatchers. Carried.

Budd moved, Herman seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-22 the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS) Plan Documents and Resolutions for Police Officer Labor Council Patrol Division. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the appointment of Max Johnson to the Public Safety Committee with a term to expire July 30, 2006 and to acknowledge Rick Lapensee for his years of service. Carried.

Hart moved, Payne seconded to approve the 2004-2005 Library Budget. Carried.

Jahr moved, Herman seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-23 to establish a special assessment district (SAD) for the purpose of developing design and construction plans for improvements to Venetian and a portion of DeWitt Streets south of I-94. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the reappointments of Frank Alex, Douglas Peters and Kenneth McKanders to the Local Development Finance Authority with terms to expire August 12, 2008. Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the final plat approval for Walden Woods Subdivision Phase 5. Carried.

Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the final preliminary plat for the proposed Timbers Subdivision located on the east side of Elwell Road, south of West Huron River Drive, parcel numbers V125-83-111-99-0003-002 and V125-83-111-99-0004-000, with the condition that upon completion of the pond and the buffering landscaping the township will inspect the landscape buffer around the pond and should it be determined that more vegetation is required, then some or all of the homeowner selected trees will be installed in this area and receipts should reflect the payment of all required permits, fees, and bonds. Carried.

Budd moved, Herman seconded to approve the contract with Davenport Construction in the amount of \$352,500 to be expensed from the Landfill Account for the construct of the Parks Department Grounds Maintenance Facility; authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract; and noting a site plan be delivered to the Planning Commission by October 2005. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve the August 17, 2004 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the June 2004 Budgetary Report and the July 2004 Public Safety Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Township Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2004 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

Tax bills must be received in the Treasurer's Office by Thursday, September 30th. There is a drop box in the Public Safety Department Lobby where residents may deposit their payments when Township Offices are closed.

Trustee Rochowiak and the Board offered condolences to the families of Bob Baker who was an active member in the City of Belleville and Marvin Banotai the former Sumpter Township Supervisor.

The Recreation Department is offering the following programs and events. On September 18th a Community Dance Social will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the township hall dining room. Also, youth gymnastics program begins on Saturday, September 18th. For further information on programs and events contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

On Friday, August 20th the Senior Jamboree will be held for members of September Days.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Max Johnson thanked the Board for his appointment to the Public Safety Committee.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Herman seconded to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Carried.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk
Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: August 26, 2004

Belleville tastefest is tonight

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Today, Belleville residents can “bridge” the distance between local restaurants during an annual community event.

The Central Business Community and the City of Belleville will host the Ninth Annual Bridge Walk and Taste of Belleville, celebrating both the food and the bridge.

The annual summer event will begin at 5:30 p.m. today, with the bridge walk. The taste fest is planned from 6-8 p.m. in Horizon Park, overlooking Belleville Lake. The taste fest allows visitors to sample menu items offered by the local restaurants at \$1 per serving.

This year, event organizers Madelyn Pelligrini and Bob Stoner said that the event will be even bigger and better.

“It’s a great way for all the local restaurants to get active in the community and share all their good food,” said Stoner. “It’s really a great thing for Belleville.”

The 15-minute bridge walk—now a tra-

ditional favorite in the city—began with the original Belleville Bridge and continued when the new bridge was constructed. The Taste of Belleville initially took place in the spring, but was moved to partner up with walking the bridge. Stoner said that together, the events have worked out well.

Stoner said participating restaurants will include: The Bayou Grill, Morning Express, A&W, The Bake Shop, Flowers by Katherine, Bangkok, Dos Pesos, The Belleville Grill, Jets Pizza, Maria’s Bakery, Hungary Howie’s and Cracker Barrel. Machine Gun Kelly, of Belleville, will provide entertainment and the picnic tables will be decorated by area florists. Prizes from a 50/50 and other raffles will also be awarded.

The Central Business Community is also looking for volunteers to help with setting up tables and chairs, and with the clean-up following the event. Anyone who would like to lend a helping hand, or for more information, can call Stoner at 734-697-8000.

1954 PA 188 Proceedings Notice of Venetian Avenue and DeWitt Street (south of I-94) Engineering Special Assessment District Hearing Charter Township of Van Buren Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, OWNERS OF LAND ON VENETIAN AVENUE AND DEWITT STREET SOUTH OF I-94 AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and Treasurer of the Township has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by the Township covering all properties within the Special Assessment District for the Venetian Avenue and DeWitt Street (south of I-94) Engineering Special Assessment District benefited by the road project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing a portion of the costs of the development of design and construction plans to repave Venetian Avenue and DeWitt Street (south of I-94) and work incidental thereto with the aforesaid Venetian Avenue and DeWitt Street (south of I-94) Engineering Special Assessment District as more particularly described in the proposal by Wade Trim Associates, Inc., dated 12 August 2004 on file with the Township Clerk at 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the owners of said parcels of land chose to proceed with Alternative 2-Preliminary Investigation for a cost not to exceed \$5,500.00. The owners of said parcels however do reserve the right to request the Township to amend the assessment roll up to an amount not to exceed \$31,800.00 as described in the Wade Trim proposal dated August 12, 2004 at a later date and the owners of the parcels understand that another hearing will have to be held in accordance with rules, regulations and requirements of PA 188 of 1954.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Treasurer has further reported that the assessment against each and every parcel of land within said District will be determined as follows:

All residentially used benefited parcels will be charged for one driveway.
All non-residentially used benefited parcels will be charged for the number of driveways currently in use on those properties.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Van Buren Township Board Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI on September 7, 2004 for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner of party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie D. Payne
Township Clerk

Publish: August 26, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN COUNTY OF WAYNE STATE OF MICHIGAN ORDINANCE NO. 07-20-04

Second reading of ordinance for adoption.

An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance 06-02-92, as amended, of the Charter Township of Van Buren, to establish new regulations for Planned Senior Development (PSD).

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 7.04.A. PLANNED SENIOR DEVELOPMENT (PSD)

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Section 1. | Article VII R-1A, R-1B, AND R-1C Single Family Residential Districts Section 7.04, Planned Residential Developments (PRD), is hereby amend to include anew subsection “7.04.A, Planned Senior Development (PSD)” as follows: |
| Section 2. | Conflicts |
| Section 3. | Severability |
| Section 4 | Effective Date |

This ordinance shall be effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the 17th day of August, 2004.

YEAS:	Jahr, Herman, Rochowiak, Hart, Budd, Payne and King.
NAYS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after passage.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: August 26, 2004

1954 PA 188 Proceedings Notice of Street Lighting Special Assessment Hearing Pine Forest Subdivision Charter Township of Van Buren Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions by the developer and property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose footage constitutes more than 50 percent of the total footage of the hereinafter described as Pine Forest Subdivision Street Lighting Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren proposes to purchase, construct and maintain street lights and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows: Pine Forest Subdivision, Lots 1 through 114 inclusive.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township has received a preliminary street lighting layout plan from Detroit Edison indicating 2 street lights to be constructed with an annual operating cost of \$515.50. This plan is on file at the Township Clerk’s Office and is available for examination and will further be available at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon the proposed street lighting project design and cost will be held at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center at 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan, commencing at 7:30 p.m on September 7, 2004.

At such hearing, the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which might be filed with said board at or prior to the time of said hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to said Plans, Estimates and Costs or to said Special Assessment District.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place and to submit comments concerning any of the foregoing.

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Joannie Payne
Township Clerk

Publish: August 26, 2004

Wayne-Westland schools settle union contracts

Scott Spielman
Editor

Three down, one to go.

The Wayne-Westland School District came to terms with three unions last week. The formalization of the fourth – with the Wayne-Westland Education Association – is expected next month.

The contracts were unanimously approved at the school board meeting on Aug. 16.

"I think the contracts are fair and equitable for both sides," said Gary Martin, deputy superintendent of business and operations for the district.

The three unions include the Wayne-Westland Central Office Administrators, Wayne-Westland Building Administrators Association and members of

Superintendent Greg Baracy's administrative cabinet.

All were generally the same, according to Martin. They were 4-year contracts that included a 2-percent cost of living increase in each of the years. The new contract provided no change to the benefits package, but allowed the district the option to switch insurance carriers, he said. It's a crucial element of the agreement, given the trend for insurance companies to hike their rates every year.

"It's such a major issue right now," Martin said. "We're not looking to lessen the benefits of any employees; we're just looking to provide the best, lowest cost alternative for everyone."

The contracts allow for a few other changes, as well. Employees will now be able to

put their unused sick days into their retirement accounts, which Martin characterized as a no-cost benefit for the district. Longevity pay will not be rolled into their base salary, too.

"It more accurately reflects what they are paid," Martin said.

The largest outstanding contract is with the teacher's union, which represents 700 educators

"We're not looking to lessen the benefits of any employees; we're just looking to provide the best, lowest cost alternative for everyone."

Gary Martin

across the district. Those negotiations have turned a corner, and it is primarily a scheduling difficulty which put the resolution of it off until September.

"A lot of the membership is gone during the summer time," Martin said. "You hope to have these settled in June, otherwise, you have to wait until September."

School Board President Fred Weaver said he's glad to be able to concentrate on other matters, now.

"We've worked at this very diligently," he said. "We've been out there for a good portion of a year, trying to get these settled. We're very happy they took the well-deserved increase."

He said the negotiations have been difficult, at times, as both sides tried to reach an equitable agreement. The district, for its part, wanted to give conservative raises because of the current state of the economy and its necessary impact on school funding. He praised those who worked on both sides for coming up with a good, long-term plan.

"I think everyone came out of this somewhat happy and pleased," he said.

Wayne Civitans plan for busy year ahead

Scott Spielman
Editor

It's going to be another busy year for the Wayne Civitans.

The group met last Wednesday for the annual club budget meeting and will formalize the projects to be funded this year the next time they get together, according to Don Hartford, the incoming president of the group.

"I think it's going to be an exciting year for the Civitans," he said.

The group traditionally funds a local chapter of the Special Olympics and has been working with several literacy programs as well as setting aside money for park improvements at the recently-renovated Civitans Park, and they may take on a new charitable effort, Hartford said.

He said the group may get involved with a nationwide effort to provide school supplies for children in Iraq. The school supplies would be sent to Kansas City where they would be flown overseas. Soldiers stationed in that troubled country would pick it up and go directly into the classrooms to give it to the children, he said.

"The best part about it is the community relations with the kids," Hartford said. "The purpose behind it is that the kids don't think of the military as a bad thing."

"It's not traditional Civitans stuff, but it's a cool concept," he added.

He said he also thought the Civitans would keep up their literacy program, which he called a stellar one.

Lois Van Stipdonk, a fellow Civitan member as well as the director of the Wayne Public Library, agreed. She said the program is eared toward elementary school children. The group sends out letters

to the four elementary schools in Wayne, as well as Schweitzer Elementary School in Westland, which is just over the border and serves Wayne residents, too. The letter is essentially an invitation to the third graders to take a field trip to the library. The Civitans pay for the busing, if needed, give the youngsters a tour of the library, read them a story and give them a book bag with a free book.

There are also incentives for the children to come back to the library on their own, Van Stipdonk said.

"It's an invitation to get them to read," she said. "They get their very own book. They love it."

The group also goes to the schools on parent nights to read to children and help fund the summer reading program at the library, which includes story times and crafts on Thursday mornings.

"They're pretty big on literacy," Van Stipdonk said of the group.

Another goal for the group this year is to get together with members of all of the other civic groups in the Wayne and Westland communities, according to Hartford. He said he wanted to form a presidents' council, where the presidents of groups like the Civitans, the Kiwanis clubs, the Rotary and more would get together three or four times a year to bounce ideas off each other.

He said he would send out letters to the presidents of the different groups and invite them to the meeting, which has not been scheduled yet.

"After that, we'll see where we'll go from there," he said.

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OPINION

Patience pays off

Patience may pay off for officials – and residents – of the City of Westland.

Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said last week that they should soon hear if the city will receive a state grant to help clean up the old Cooper School site and prime it for further development.

The grant hasn't been officially awarded yet – most likely it depends on the still-ongoing budget discussions at the state – but the fact that she and other members of the team were willing to call the press out to the site and discuss it points to a probably positive outcome.

If it's received, that money, coupled with a low-interest loan that wouldn't come due until there is tax revenue from the development to repay it, could finally bring closure to a long-standing concern for community officials.

The school has been vacant for more than 10 years, and sits boarded up, with a rusty fence protecting the exterior of the 40-acre site. Once a flagship school in the Livonia Public School District, it now attracts vandals and miscreants, who use it as a place to perfect their graffiti-scrawling skills.

In short, it's just an eyesore, a reminder of an unpleasant past.

The city and the school district have tried numerous times in the past to secure additional funding to make the site more attractive to developers. They've reformed a Brownfield redevelopment board and designated the area as such. They've applied for grants in the past to help with the cost of clean up on the site – the one sticking point for potential developers.

It is an attractive site in a community that is rapidly approaching a complete build out. The 40 acres of gently rolling land back up to Hines Park, and are in the middle of an area with a well-established residential and commercial component. It's no wonder that developers would be interested in transforming the site into something that would benefit the community, the neighbors and themselves.

Hopefully, the good news that the city and school district are expecting will soon arrive and some of the final obstacles facing any impending development on the site will be removed.

Whether the Jonna Development Co. is the one that finally puts together a plan to transform the site is really immaterial; the issues would be the same, no matter who wants to build there.

Hopefully, these issues will be solved, soon, and officials will have another feather in their respective caps.

Getting off to a strong start

For incoming elected officials, there's probably nothing as satisfying as getting off to a good start.

Richard Reaume, who barring a miracle write-in campaign will be the next supervisor of Plymouth Township, did just that recently.

Reaume will not officially take office until November, but he attended a Northville Township Board of Trustees meeting last week to introduce himself. Sure, his victory in the Republican primary over opponent Don Schnettler virtually assures him a spot on the board and as the top elected official in Plymouth Township, but it was still nice to see him getting out to get an early start.

We liked what he had to say, too. He pointed out what will be some of the major issues he'll face in his first few months in office – the impending township hall issue and a wrongful death lawsuit filed against the township for a recent tragic situation involving police and a suspect at a church day care.

More importantly, he talked about cooperation between the two townships.

As municipalities across the state look to provide the same or more

See Start, page 8

ITS BRILLIANT!! IF WE DO SAY SOMETHING
GOOD ABOUT OUR OPPONENT, EVERYONE WILL
AUTOMATICALLY ASSUME WE'RE STILL LYING!!



Take a long last look

Lately I've found that most events in my life are dictated by cheesy song lyrics.

It happened most recently during a walk up to Attwood Park with my son, Henry. OK, it was more of a half-jog, half-sprint as I tried to keep up with the little speedster on his 'big boy bike.'

Anyway, the song was from Don Henley, and it came to me as we walked up the wide steps to the top of the old sled hill.

"Let me take a long last look, before I say goodbye."

Now it's strange for someone to have a sentimental reaction to the impending removal of the hill, which is essentially just a misshapen collection of old road material disguised with a few trees, dirt and some grass that is slowly losing the war against invasive weeds.

But the hill, and the park in general, I suppose, is a regular destination for me and Henry. We spend a few afternoons at the top, digging up stones that he can hurl down the crevice on the north face, making sound effects as they roll down to the bottom. Or we sit in the grass watching the booming jets line up to land at the airport, relatively close by.

Henry's a pretty smart kid,

and I figured he could take the news.

"Hey buddy," I said to him as worked his way up the steps, "Pretty soon, we're not going to be able to climb the hill any more."

"Why Dad?" he asked, kicking some loose gravel.

Well, they're going to tear it down and make it into some soccer fields. Next year, it won't be here.

"Well, they're going to tear it down and make it into some soccer fields," I answered. "Next year, it won't be here."

Henry looked up at me, and asked the most popular question for 3-year-olds.

"Why?"

Hmm. I should have seen it coming. He probably wouldn't understand the specifics, that the city has long wanted to remove the hill for liability reasons, whether from the sledding that goes on there during the winter

or the youngsters that ignore the signs and ride their bikes down the hill, through the crevice or the more tame, grassy slopes.

"Well, cause people need a place to play soccer, I suppose," was the answer I came up with.

"Well I'm not gong to let them," he shouted. Always a bit on the melodramatic side, he tried to stomp his foot but lost his balance on the shifting pea gravel and nearly toppled over.

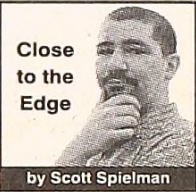
"But I like the big hill, Dad," he said after he regained his composure.

"Yeah, I kinda do, too, buddy, but things change. And we can still come to the park to play."

"But I want to climb the – oh look, a feather!"

And that signaled a change in conversation. A few minutes later Henry was again digging in the dirt and I looked out over the park, trying to visualize what it would look like when the work is completed later this year.

It's true, we'll still be able to walk down to the park, play on the playscape and hit the walking path. We'll just have to dodge a few soccer balls or bring our own with us.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

A good attitude is healthy for you

Certainly, much of our health is what the good Lord gives us to begin with. Some of us have good genes or the good fortune not to be sick, while others don't.

But I've also found that attitude is very important when it comes to our health. Having a good attitude is not just having a positive outlook, but it's about disciplining ourselves to do the right things for our bodies.

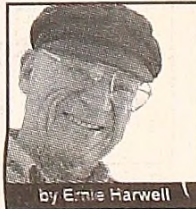
I've seen it in the big leagues. Some young men who didn't have a lot of talent made the most of

what they had by concentrating on good health habits. Likewise, some fellows had great talent that they squandered because of poor health habits.

It's a good lesson both ways. We all need to have the right attitude when it comes to keeping ourselves healthy.

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's

days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

JOURNAL

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Letters

Resident encourages voters

To the editor;

Time passes so quickly, and before we know it, Election Day will be upon us. Are we ready for it?

Some are, some are getting ready and some are scarcely giving it a second thought.

I was one of the latter for many years, thinking I didn't know enough of political matters to vote wisely. Besides that, "my vote won't make a difference, anyway." So Wrong!

Your vote and mine are just as important as that of the most powerful, wealthy or famous persons in the country. We can gain information on issues and candidates in many different ways, though many sources that are widely available. It is also important to contact our elected representatives to get information and give them our views on various issues.

Remember, our republic was

set up to be "of the people, by the people and for the people." Let's all do our part to keep it that way.

If you are unable to physically vote at the polls, be sure to vote by registering and/or voting by absentee ballot, which is readily available by contacting your local city or township clerk. Applications must be filled out and returned by the Oct. 4 deadline.

Let's have the best voter turn out ever this election year.

Beulah Praay

Councilwoman criticizes cable company senior citizen rates

To the editor;

As an elected official of the City of Romulus, providing services to our seniors is of extreme importance. Many seniors rely on cable to keep them informed and updated on various issues and activities in our community.

all municipalities will face it, eventually. It's good to see that Reaume recognizes this and shows that he will proactively attack the problem.

Mark Abbo, Northville Township supervisor, probably summed it up best when he thanked Reaume for the proactive approach.

"We've always had a good working relationship with Plymouth Township, and I see no reason why that can't continue," he said.

In the past, seniors have received a discount from Media One and Comcast continued to honor that discount until recently, when city council was informed of a corporate age policy.

I now find it necessary to bring this matter to the attention of corporate Comcast. It is obvious that only corporate can change policy and must be willing to do so. It is a fact the majority of seniors, not just in Romulus but everywhere, is living on fixed incomes either by a retirement or Social Security. Seniors are trying diligently to maintain their quality of life on already stretched, hard-earned dollars.

Comcast is one of the largest cable companies in the country, creating a monopoly in the cable industry, leaving senior cus-

tomers no choice in selecting another provider who would willingly offer a discount. I hardly think changing this policy would directly affect shareholder's profits. It would, however, confirm you are a community-oriented corporation addressing the needs of seniors. Cable television has become a modern-day necessity like home computers.

In closing, I would respectfully request Comcast to live up to their 'focus on community by immediately reviewing and changing their corporate age policy, so that seniors everywhere, not just in Romulus, may continue to enjoy and afford quality cable viewing on their hard-earned stretched retirement dollars.

Debbie Romak,
Romulus City Council

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Start

FROM PAGE 7

services with an ever-dwindling revenues, that type of cooperation will become even more important. Plymouth Township hasn't felt the impact of that revenue decline yet - the township is still in a growth phase with revenues that offset any cuts from the state - but it's looking more and more likely that

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Northville police tasers OK'd

Scott Spielman
Editor

The Northville Township Police Department became the latest agency in the area to add another tool to their belts.

The department will purchase eight taser guns after township trustees approved the expenditure last week. The devices will cost about \$8,426, but the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) will pay \$2,000 of the cost, according to Police Chief John Werth.

"It gives us more options than to go to deadly force," said Werth.

"It's another tool in the tool box," agreed Township Manager Chip Snider, who also serves as the director of public safety for the township. "It's not perfect, but understand that without this, the next step for officers is to use a firearm."

The taser guns incapacitate subjects by shooting a large electric charge through their bodies. The charge effectively immobilizes suspects, allowing officers to

apprehend them with greater safety. Most of the injuries that take place – between police officers and suspects – occur when the officer has to initiate physical contact, Werth said. Taser guns greatly diminish that possibility.

It's for when (suspects) are combative and try to fight off the officer.

Police Chief John Werth

Even so, the tasers are not the first line of defense, according to Werth. Officers are trained to use spoken commands and other defensive techniques like pepper spray before they draw the taser weapons.

"It's for when (suspects) are combative and try to fight off the officer," Werth said.

It's not 100 percent effective, he added, but nothing truly is. Recent incidents, most notably in Plymouth Township, where officers tried to subdue a suspect at

a church day care with taser guns that apparently had no effect on him, have caused the purchase of the guns to merit more discussion.

Trustee Shirley Klockenga said she was concerned about that incident and others that have, for one reason or another, caused the death of the suspects involved could bring a level of liability to the department. Werth said there was no conclusive proof that the tasers caused the heart attacks that allegedly caused those deaths, however. And the weapons are safe enough to bring in the grant from MMRMA, a township insurance carrier.

The department will have eight of the weapons, one for each of the four road patrol units, and four back ups that will charge when not in use.

Werth said the tool was an important one to have because of the long-term effects the use of a regular firearm can have.

"I'd rather have it available, than to have to go for my gun," he said.

Wayne Wheelfest starts tonight

Scott Spielman
Editor

The annual Wheelfest celebration will begin at 6 tonight in Goudy Park.

The event, which celebrates the automotive history of the community, will run throughout the weekend at the park, which is between Second Street and Wayne Road, just north of Michigan Avenue.

"We're looking forward to a great festival," said Jeff Rutter, assistant director of Wayne Parks and Recreation. He works with the Festival Commission year round to plan the annual event.

The event starts at 6 tonight, when the carnival, food and drink vendors open to the public. The Diamond of the Community Award will be presented shortly after that.

The night will conclude with a performance by Karen Durrant; her 'Simply the Best' tribute will pay homage to acts like Diana Ross and the Supremes, Donna Summer and Tina Turner.

It's the first time there has been a headline performer on the first night of the festival, according to City Manager John Zech.

The event continues Friday night, with the Great Wheelfest Parade.

This year, there will be more than 35 entries with more than 200 people in the parade, according to Kim Fallow, parks and recreation director for the city. The parade starts at 6 p.m. the First Baptist

Church on Glenwood. It follows the traditional route down Glenwood to Wayne Road, south on Wayne to Sims Avenue.

Friday night the Vegas tent opens, and there will be entertainment throughout the evening on the main stage, capped off by the Fabulous Motown Entertainers.

All in all, more than 35 non-profit groups, businesses and individuals will take part in the festival.

Entertainment will take place all day long. The Saturday night headliners include Space Oddity – David Brighton's tribute to David Bowie and Led Zepagain, featuring Swan, a tribute to the influential band, Led Zeppelin.

Sunday night, Ricky Smith will give a tribute to Kenny Chesney and Tim McGraw to close out the festivities, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

"We've got some great entertainment lined up," Rutter said.

The entertainment is the aspect of the festival that organizers work hardest on, according to Rick Turk, a long-time volunteer with the commission. It often entails site visits to other festivals and hours of pouring over demo tapes. The trend toward tribute bands started last year in response to a diminished entertainment budget.

In addition to the carnival, non-profit booths, food and drinks, there will also be a number of car shows, including the 40th anniversary of the Mustang in the Jack Demmer Classic Car Show. That takes place from 7:30 – 9 p.m. on Friday, and is presented by the Special Vehicle Team Owner's Association (SVTOA), a group of Ford car enthusiasts.

Women's club seeks 'reality help'

The Belleville Business and Professional Women's Club will host the Reality Store to help eighth grade students learn the basic skills in financial planning, decision-making and career planning.

The store will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 13 at North Middle School in Belleville. Students "become" 25 years old and are employed in the career they have chosen. They also learn their marital status and the number of dependents they have. Students then move from station to

station to pay for food, clothing and insurance. In addition, students receive a 'reality check' when they randomly choose a slip providing one of life's little surprises including a small check or a large dental bill.

The women's club is looking for volunteers to help the students as they move through out the stations.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact one of the committee co-chairs—Gwenyth Ashe at 734-699-6970, or Char Nichols at 734-699-3409.

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Soon to wed

Easley-Orweller

Melissa Easley and Jon Orweller are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Larry and Ginna Easley of Wayne. She is a 1997 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School and earned a degree in interpersonal communications/French from Western Michigan University in 2002.

The future groom is the son of Dennis and Betty Orweller of Allegan, MI.

He is a 1997 graduate of Allegan High School and earned his degree in computer engineering from Western Michigan University in 2002.

The couple plans to marry May 28, 2005.



Melissa Easley and Jon Orweller

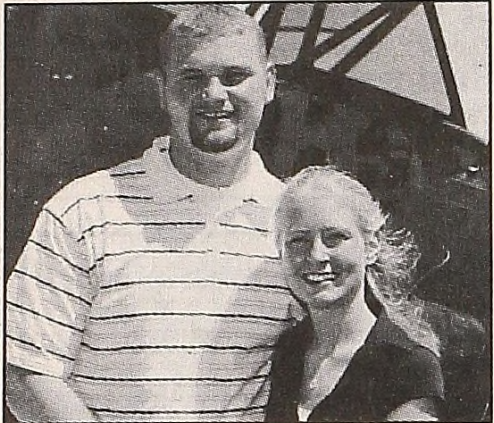
Keller-Justice

Cristy Lynn Keller and Brian Shane Justice, both of Tecumseh, will be married Sept. 4.

The bride-to-be is a 2002 graduate of Kellogg Community College. She is the daughter of Don and Renee Rutledge of Onstead.

The future groom, formerly of Romulus, is a 2000 graduate of Adrian High School. He is the son of Mark and Cindy Justice of Adrian.

The couple plans to honeymoon in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.



Brian Justice—Cristy Lynn Keller

Couple welcomes birth of first child June 30

Thomas and Wendy Haverlock of Dearborn Heights became the parents of a son, Collin Thomas Haverlock, on June 30.

The infant weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces at birth and measured 20 3/4 inches in length.

Maternal grandparents of the new

arrival are Steve and Debbie Morris of Romulus and Tom Courlas of Westland.

Great-grandparents of the baby are Tom and Shirley Courlas of Westland, Rose Kirk of Belleville, Bill and Alice Wilkinson of Livonia and Ann Haverlock of Oxford.

This is the first child for the couple.

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BUSINESS

Dog's best friend Doggie day care opens in Plymouth

John Counts
Staff Writer

Peaceful moments are hard to come by at most day care centers. The facility Nancy Janoth recently opened in downtown Plymouth is no different. Knee-high creatures clamor around her wanting toys, treats and attention. Cooing 'parents'—as Janoth refers to them—pick up their 'kids,' enthusiastically asking them what they did that day.

But they generally have a 'ruff' time answering, considering the mischief-makers at Janoth's new center aren't children, they're dogs.

Janoth celebrated the grand opening of Happy Hounds Day Care Sunday. The "Dog Extravaganza"—complete with a 'leash cutting'—featured local dignitaries like Plymouth mayor pro-tem Dan Dwyer, pet portrait photography and treats for dogs and humans alike.

According to Janoth, the event started out in size and scope as a Chihuahua, but

ended up a St. Bernard.

"It turned into the dog event of the year," she said.

But despite the human hoopla, the dogs remain at the center of the event and the business.

Operating a day car center for dogs is a relatively new idea that has taken shape in the last 10 years, Janoth said. It's more akin to the pet-sitting business she ran for 6 years in her native Cleveland before she moved to Plymouth 2 years ago than a kennel. Instead of just being a place to house and feed animals, Happy Hounds is a fun environment where dogs can play and mingle with other dogs, she said. There's a back yard filled with toys and a pool and a playroom that looks like it's meant more for children than pooches. There are even pictures of the dogs' favorite superheroes like Huckleberry Hound and Underdog on the walls.

Happy Hounds, which started operations Aug. 3, already has 15 customers, and more than a hundred inquiries,



Nancy Janoth, owner of Happy Hounds Day Care, enjoys her various daily 'quests'.

Janoth said. It's about \$25 a day for someone to send their four-legged friend to day care. Worried dog-owners also have the option of going online and checking on their pet via webcams that are set up in every room at the facility. But according to Janoth, the best reason for someone to bring their dog to her is that it allows dogs canine company.

"It gives them exercise," she said. "People go home so exhausted. They just

don't have the time."

Having worked in the corporate world for 20 years before she started her pet-sitting business, Janoth said she knows all too well the struggle of working long hours and coming home to an energetic dog.

"I would have loved to have this service available to me," she said.

"The dogs love it, the parents love it, and I love it," she said.

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| 01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
05. Personal
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
31. Help Wanted Sales | 32. Help Wanted
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Pawn Shops
43. Money to Loan
44. Music Lessons
45. Art Lessons
46. Private Instruction
47. Schools
50. Pets & Supplies | 54. Rummage Sales
55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
56. Garage Sales
57. Antiques
58. Flea Markets
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business with Office & Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies | 65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
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59. Auctions

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On August 31, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

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1G3CW693XF4324960
1989 Mazda RX-7
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JM1FC3310K0702541
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2 Door-Red
1N4AB42D8SC513087
1996 Ford Escort
2 Door-Purple
1FASP11J8TW172656
1992 Mazda 929
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2002 Chevrolet Blazer
Station Wagon-Blue
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All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

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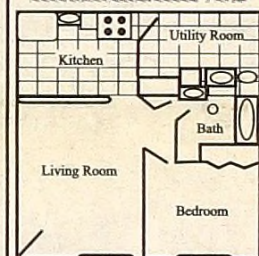
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SPORTS

Lady Eagles basketball eager to start season

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

One of the premier girls' varsity basketball teams in the Mega White Division, if not in the state, should once again be the Romulus Eagles.

Under the strong leadership of head coach Rhonda Henry, the Eagles hope they can soar to new heights this season. If all goes well, this could be the third consecutive Romulus Mega White championship.

It won't be an easy task, though. Romulus went 18-2 last season and won the Mega White Championship but fell early to Garden City in the district playoffs. This year, Henry hopes it will be different.

"I thought we fell short of our goals last year," she said. "It will be disappointing if we don't go further this year."

"It will be disappointing if we don't go further this year. We set our goals high and we're staying focused on them."

Rhonda Henry

We set our goals high and we're staying focused on them." Henry, Metro-west Coach of the Year last year, has had a busy summer. She was the coach for the Southeastern Michigan AAU under-16 Girls All-Star team. The team, which featured three of her varsity players – Ashley Sibby, Paris Hawkins and Janiece Armstrong – won the state

AAU tournament and advanced to the national finals in Memphis, TN. The rest of the team included players from Anchor Bay, Walled Lake, Livonia and Bay City.

Henry also hosted her annual week-long summer basketball camp at Romulus High School for third through ninth grade students. Many of her varsity players were on hand to help.

The Lady Eagles also earned many victories at camps at the University of Michigan and Toledo University as well as in the Plymouth-Canton summer league.

With all of the summer activities behind them, Henry and the Eagles are gearing up to open the regular season at 7 p.m. tonight at home against Detroit St. Martin DePorres.

See **Basketball**, page 15

Romulus football banks on team chemistry for wins

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The weather has been playing tricks all summer long but the mild temperatures have been just right for the start of football season.

The Romulus Eagle varsity team will begin their season home opener tomorrow night against the River Rouge Panthers.

Head Coach Wade Cook, like all coaches who have had a long, busy summer, is anxious to get the season going – with good rea-

son, too. He said the team should be greatly improved from last year's record of 3-6.

"We should be a lot better on offense," he said. "This is the first time that we've had a quarterback in three years."

Senior Ahmad Gambles will step into that role this year. So far he's had a great summer and training camp, according to Cook, who said he should be exciting to watch. Gambles didn't play last year because he opted to help take care of his younger brothers instead, Cook said.

Senior running back James

"We should be a lot better on offense. This is the first time that we've had a quarterback in three years."

Wade Cook

Kendricks will return to the line up after suffering a dislocated shoulder after three games last season. However, in those three

games the 5-foot, 7-inch, 172-pounder averaged 150 yards per game, according to Cook.

Other players that will return to the turf include wide receiver and defensive back Arthur Price; Daniel King, a defensive back; Malcolm Richards at center and nose guard; and Philip Roscoe who will play at linebacker and fullback.

Quinton Mark, if healthy, could be a huge asset at guard. Mark has been plagued with ankle injuries in previous years but Cook feels that this could be his breakout year.

"We waiting for him to turn the corner," he said. "Once he's healthy we think he can do some things."

With talent lined up to play this year, Cook said the biggest difference from last year would be the teamwork.

"The biggest thing is to get the guys to play as a group, to make sure that we're all in accord," he said. "Last year some guys played as individuals and some guys didn't step up. We worked hard all summer and we're going

See **Football**, page 15

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Basketball

FROM PAGE 14

Although Romulus lost skill and leadership players such as Erika Mims and Alicia Harbor to graduation, the team has a strong core of returning players to defend their title.

Veterans of the champion team include seniors Armstrong, Sibby and Hawkins. Hawkins has seen limited playing time during the last three years due to injuries but has had a good summer with the AAU and remains healthy for the regular season, according to Henry. Junior Landria Buckley will also hit the hardwood again for the Eagles this season.

Romulus will also have new and young players who earned a way into the lineup. Candace Lawrence, a senior on defense, will get her first chance to play in an Eagles uniform. She came from Gabriel Richard last year but, despite living in Romulus, was ruled ineligible to play for the district. She was labeled the team manager and watched from the sideline. This year she will have her chance play.

Other young players that will edge into the lineup this year include sophomore guard Erika Wasson, junior Jasmine Charles and freshman forward Jasmine Brown.

What the Lady Eagles lack in size on defense they make up for in speed, according to Henry.

"We are a lot quicker," she said. "We don't have much of an inside game so we rely on our quickness and press a lot. We just don't have the size in the middle."

With Romulus rebound queen, Harbor, graduated, Charles will have the opportunity to fill her shoes.

After the opener tonight in Romulus, the Eagles stay at home next week with games against Wyandotte and Robichaud.

"We're excited to get the season going," Henry said. "The kids have worked hard all summer and are ready to accomplish their goals."

Football

FROM PAGE 14

to play more of a team-oriented game."

The Eagles played a four-way scrimmage recently against Detroit Osborn, Detroit Chadsey, Detroit Henry Ford and Dearborn Heights Robichaud. Cook said he held most of his starters out to rest. Although the number-twos struggled, he said, they earned some valuable experience.

Romulus finished 3-6 last year but three of those losses came by just two or three points in the final minutes, according to Cook.

"We're hoping to fix that," he said. "Our main focus is to finish strong"

Their first contest is at 7 p.m. tomorrow at home against River Rouge. They will stay at home as well next week when they host Allen Park.

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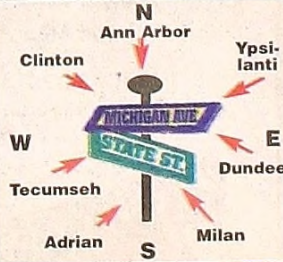
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